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21. (Amended) The method according to claim 23, wherein the remaining portion of the cleaning liquid is sucked off the screen fabric to such a degree that the screen printing frame can immediately be used for printing again.

22. (Amended) The method according to claim 23, wherein the cleaning liquid contains an emulsifier and the method further comprises flushing the clean screen fabric with water to remove any liquid film residue thereon after removal of the cleaning liquid.

REMARKS


New claim 23 is presented in Jepson format to emphasize that Applicants' invention is an improvement in the prior art method of washing screen printing frames, for example, as described on page 1 of the specification, wherein the screen fabric is first cleansed of ink residues with a liquid and liquid remaining on the clean screen fabric is sucked off the fabric with a suction nozzle applied directly to the fabric.

The Examiner is requested to proceed with examination of the above application. If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Second Preliminary Amendment, please charge such fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX TO AMENDMENT OF JUNE 5, 2002

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

Amendments to the Claims

10. (Amended) The method of claim 23 [9], wherein the rate of the gas flow is in the range of 5-60 m/s.

13. (Amended) The method of claim 23 [9], wherein the entrained cleaning is separated from the gas flow in a separation zone where the cleaning liquid is separated and collected.

14. (Amended) The method of claim 23 [9], wherein the vacuum used for sucking off the cleaning liquid is supplied by a compressed-air driven dust/liquid suction device.

15. (Amended) The method of claim 23 [9], wherein the vacuum used for sucking off the cleaning liquid corresponds to a negative pressure in relation to atmospheric pressure of 20-300 mbars.

17. (Amended) The method of claim 23 [9], wherein the suction nozzle has a nozzle opening that is essentially rectangular.

21. (Amended) The method according to claim 23 [9], wherein the remaining portion of the cleaning liquid is sucked off the screen fabric to such a degree that the screen printing frame can immediately be used for printing again.

22. (Amended) The method according to claim 23 [9], wherein the cleaning liquid contains an emulsifier and the method further comprises flushing the clean screen

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